NEWS FROM SABANCI UNIVERSITY

JUNE 2025

Sabancı University Founding Chair of Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı's 25th Anniversary Message

Exactly 25 years ago, we set out with a big dream: We wanted to create a new model in education in Türkiye, to build a university that encourages free thought and contributes to research and society. Today, Sabancı University is celebrating its 25th anniversary as this dream has come true!

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Sakıp Sabancı Commemorated on the 21st Anniversary of His Passing with the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards

The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards and Commemoration Ceremony was held at the Sabancı Center on April 10, 2025. As part of the ceremony, the late Sakıp Sabancı, Honorary Chair of Sabancı University, was commemorated on the 21st anniversary of his passing. This year's theme of the awards program was "Re-aligning Values in a Transforming World Order: What needs preserving, reevaluating, and redefining?". The Special Jury Prize went to Political Science Professor Wendy Brown.

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18th IICEC Conference Addressed Risks and Opportunities in World Energy Markets

The 18th IICEC Conference, organized by Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC), addressed the topic of "An Overview of Energy Markets in Türkiye and the World: Risks and Opportunities." Dr. Alparslan Bayraktar, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye, who attended the conference on April 11 as a guest of honor, drew attention to the importance of smart energy transformation, while Dr. Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Honorary Chair of IICEC, emphasized that energy transformation develops with the dynamics of competitiveness centered on economy and industry.

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25th Anniversary Message of Güler Sabancı

Since the day we were founded:

We have created a unique education model in Türkiye by offering our students the freedom to choose their programs.
We have undertaken projects that have made a global impact with our research and shaped the world of science.
We have trained our graduates to be pioneers not only in the business world but also in social development.
We have produced innovative solutions in many areas from sustainability to technology, from art to entrepreneurship.
We have always prioritized our responsibility to create value for society and made a difference with our social responsibility projects.

Today, Sabancı University is not just an academic institution, but a symbol of innovation, progress, and shaping the future. We are proud of what we have achieved together so far, and we look to the future with confidence and determination.

Happy 25th anniversary! Because we are stronger together, we will go further together.

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Sabancı University Honorary Chair Sakıp Sabancı was commemorated with a ceremony on the 21st anniversary of his passing. The ceremony also included the announcement of the winners of the 2025 article awards as part of the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards, which are implemented according to Sakıp Sabancı's will. The Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards and Commemoration Ceremony, held at the Sabancı Center on April 10, 2025, was hosted by Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı. The ceremony was attended by Istanbul Governor Davut Gül, Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, representatives of foreign missions, representatives from academia, prominent people from the worlds of business, arts, media, and society, the Sabancı Family, and many guests.

In her speech at the ceremony, Güler Sabancı, Founding Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees, emphasized that Sakıp Sabancı, who contributed greatly to the Sabancı Group's current status with his vision, valuable ideas, and leadership, attaches great importance to education, science, and social development. Güler Sabancı said the following: "Sakıp Sabancı believed that Türkiye's development would be achieved with the contribution of quality education, free-thinking, and well-educated individuals. He saw education not only as the key to individual success but also as the most powerful tool that enables societies to reach a bright future. As someone devoted to his country and placing great importance on unity and solidarity, he made great efforts to ensure that Türkiye progresses towards its goal of becoming a member of contemporary civilizations as it deserves. Nothing could stop him from working and producing. His ideas and values have always illuminated our path."

"We continue our work with all our strength in the light of science"

Stating that they commemorate Sakıp Sabancı by supporting scientific research that benefits society according to his will, Güler Sabancı said, "Among our common dreams during the establishment of Sabancı University was to create a respected institution that not only conveys knowledge but also produces, questions, inquires, and offers solutions to issues. Today, we are proud that our common dreams have come true over the past 25 years, and we believe that we can do much better. Sabancı University carries out studies that emphasize its pioneering position with transformative effects on science and society. We continue our work with all our strength in the light of science with our philosophy of "creating and developing together". We continue to be a university that is competitive and participatory, and contributes to society on a global scale with our interdisciplinary education approach. Since the day it was founded, Sabancı University continues its progress as a young and reputable institution with more than 9 thousand scientific publications published by esteemed academics and researchers, numerous projects carried out at national and international levels in academy-industry collaborations, and nearly 19 thousand undergraduate alumni."

Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards encourage original and innovative studies

Stating that a separate fund was established according to the will of the late Sakıp Sabancı for the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards, the first and only international award program in the field of social sciences in Türkiye, Güler Sabancı said, "This fund supports young academics and research in the field of social sciences and encourages original and innovative studies. Since the beginning of the award program, more than 600 articles from 40 countries have been carefully examined by our distinguished jury chair and members. Young researchers and world-renowned scientists in many different fields, from economics to sociology, from Turkish and Islamic art to Turkish history, have been supported. Rewarding research that expands the boundaries of science and thought and guides the future is also an indication of the value Sabancı University places on free academic thought."

The theme of 2026 is "Rethinking Governance Beyond Borders"

On the theme of this year's award program, "Re-aligning Values in a Transforming World Order: What needs preserving, reevaluating, and redefining?", Güler Sabancı said, "In the era we live in, we observe that change is happening faster than ever and values are being reshaped. As science, politics, economy, culture, and social structures are undergoing transformation, the question of which values we should protect and which ones we should reevaluate is important." Sabancı, who also announced the theme determined for the award program for 2026, made the following statements: "Inspired by the words of the great leader Atatürk, who said 'For everything in the world, for materiality, for spirituality, for life, the most genuine guide is science', we embrace the legacy of our Republic, the foundations of which are built on science and reason, and continue to work tirelessly in the light of science. In this regard, we have determined the theme of the 2026 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards as "Rethinking Governance Beyond Borders". I wish success to young scientists who apply for the award and inspire original and innovative studies with their research."

Jury Prize Special Award goes to political theorist Wendy Brown

The Special Jury Prize for the 2025 Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards was awarded to Wendy Brown, UPS Foundation Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study. Speaking at the ceremony, Wendy Brown said, "I offer my profound thanks to the Sabancı Foundation and Sabancı University for this honor. Sakıp Sabancı understood, and generously supported, open intellectual inquiry and the educated development of citizens for a thriving democracy. The Sabancı Research Awards as well as Sabancı University strive to protect and elevate these values. I am honored to join the Sabancı circle of award winners."

Brown, who also touched on the theme of this year's award program, continued as follows: "We have to begin by confronting the fact that values are human-made. We are the meaning makers. We do not discover values, but decide and affirm them. But their human-madeness in no way diminishes the importance of values. They are at the heart of human freedom. Sakıp Sabancı knew the value of values, and the importance of education in developing them. This appreciation is embodied in his research awards and in the characteristics of the University that takes his name. Now it is up to us protect such institutions. They literally harbor the future of democracy of life itself."

The 2025 Article Award of the Sakıp Sabancı International Research Awards was given to Uğur Aytaç from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Utrecht University, Cenk Özbay from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Sabancı University, and Vafa Ghazavi from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney.

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The 18th IICEC Conference, organized by Sabancı University Istanbul International Center for Energy and Climate (IICEC) with the theme of "An Overview of Energy Markets in Türkiye and the World: Risks and Opportunities", was held on April 11. The guest of honor at the conference, which was hosted by Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı and Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Honorary Chair of IICEC Dr. Fatih Birol at The Seed, Sakıp Sabancı Museum, was the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Türkiye, Alparslan Bayraktar.

At the conference, the dynamics, risks, and opportunities that stand out in the energy sectors in the world and Türkiye were evaluated in a multi-faceted manner in the panel held with the participation of Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Alparslan Bayraktar and IEA Executive Director Dr. Fatih Birol, moderated by IICEC Board Member Kıvanç Zaimler.

"Energy Transformation 1.0 Successfully Carried Out"

Alparslan Bayraktar stated that Türkiye is implementing comprehensive "smart energy transformation" strategies within the scope of strengthening energy security, increasing independence in energy, and net-zero emission targets. Bayraktar emphasized that important structural transformations have been realized with the reforms carried out in energy for many years and that investments were made by the private sector in the period in which the installed power increased from 30,000 MW to 107,000 MW. Bayraktar said that Türkiye stands out with its developed energy market structure among developing economies.

"The smart energy transformation story continues in Türkiye"

Bayraktar continued as follows: "Energy transformation should be in the form of smart energy transformation. When energy transformation is only dependent on global efforts and climate change, it becomes a target with some missing aspects. Smart transformation must definitely be a process compatible with consumers and the market. Türkiye has successfully carried out energy transformation 1.0." Drawing attention to renewable energy investments, Bayraktar stated that almost all of the capacity put into operation last year was based on renewable energy, that a new growth process has been entered with the developments in the YEKA (renewable energy resource area) model and that Türkiye aims to put into operation 8,000 MW of renewable energy power every year until 2035, and that efforts are being made to initiate the super permit process. Bayraktar also touched on the issue of natural gas and emphasized the role of natural gas as a transition fuel in the transition from fossil to nuclear. Bayraktar also shared the latest developments in Black Sea gas and Gabar oil, and stated that domestic production of natural gas will reach 7.5 billion cubic meters in 2026.

"Energy efficiency is one of our main priorities"

Alparslan Bayraktar stated that the recommendations of the IICEC Türkiye Energy Efficiency Outlook study presented within the scope of the conference are compatible with the Ministry's strategies and priorities. He continued, "Energy efficiency is the most important tool for energy transformation in Türkiye. We are acting with a comprehensive energy transformation program by strengthening energy efficiency, renewable energy, our oil and natural gas production, nuclear, critical mines, and the energy infrastructure that will support all of these. I believe that we will continue our success in reducing energy density that we have demonstrated worldwide in the last three years."

“The main reason for the energy transformation is economic and industrial dynamics”

The Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and Honorary Chair of IICEC, Dr. Fatih Birol, evaluated the recent developments and trends in the world energy sector. Stating that the transformation in energy continues strongly, Dr. Birol stated that the main reasons for this transformation are economic and industrial policies and competitiveness. Stating that 85% of the new power plants established in the world are based on renewable energy, one in every four vehicles sold is an electric vehicle, and that battery installations are also growing rapidly, Dr. Birol said, “At COP 28, we suggested that renewable energy investments should increase by 3 times the current capacity and the efficiency rate by 2 times. After a 2.5-year break, renewable energy investments have now increased by 2.7 times. However, the world has failed in energy efficiency. There has been only a low increase of 1 percent in this area.” Birol, who pointed out that the electric age has begun in the world, said, “Artificial intelligence, electric vehicles, and air conditioners are triggering the demand for electricity. This trio will increase the demand for electricity by the sum of the total production of the USA and Europe in 5 years. There is a tremendous transition to nuclear in the world. Nuclear will reach a historic peak in 2025. Türkiye also needs more than one nuclear power plant. Nuclear is important for the security of supply in electricity. There are significant advances in Small Modular Reactor technologies.”

“We will see a soft period in oil and natural gas prices”

Explaining that the IEA examines the energy policies of countries every five years and presents recommendations, Birol said: “Supply security is extremely important in energy. With the recent developments, the world is going through a dangerous period in terms of supply security. Energy security is everyone's problem. Türkiye has taken important steps in this regard. There have been very important developments in renewable energy. How fossil fuel prices will develop in the coming years is extremely important. The increase in oil demand is slowing down and the natural gas market is developing in favor of buyers. There is good news for Türkiye here. We will see a soft period in oil and natural gas prices. We can expect a weakening in both oil and natural gas prices. This will be a positive development in terms of reducing energy imports, which are an important item in Türkiye's current account deficit.” Dr. Birol also stated that artificial intelligence has become a trillion-dollar industry and that a new study has been published by the IEA on the relationship between artificial intelligence and energy, and that artificial intelligence is expected to bring new opportunities for grid management. Dr. Birol also emphasized that the political wind in the world is blowing against the fight against climate change, but climate risks are felt more, which is actually an important contradiction.

“A rush for critical minerals”

The panel also addressed the increasing importance of critical minerals and supply chains. Dr. Fatih Birol stated that copper and many other minerals are critical for electric vehicles, networks, and batteries and that there is a need for significant investment, while Alparslan Bayraktar emphasized that they have published Türkiye’s inventory on critical minerals and that the critical mineral rush period we are going through is closely related to geopolitical issues.

“Our country has become one of the largest energy sectors in Europe”

In her speech, Founding Chair of the Sabancı University Board of Trustees, Güler Sabancı drew attention to the fact that significant developments have been witnessed recently in the energy sector, which plays a key role in ensuring economic and social development. Sabancı said, “There are important developments in energy security, energy trade, and competitiveness, and the critical role of energy in sustainable development. Our country has become one of the largest and most dynamic energy sectors in Europe and the world with its energy strategies, increasing investments, developing energy infrastructures and markets. When we look at many parameters such as electricity and natural gas consumption, infrastructures, and renewable energy installed capacity, we are among the top five in Europe. Our energy consumption per capita is still half of the OECD average. However, factors such as young population, urbanization, industrialization, and increasing mobility needs create a strong basis for growth in demand. Recently, important steps have been taken by the public and private sectors in energy in terms of strengthening energy security, increasing energy independence, and reaching net-zero emission targets. Energy supply security and competitiveness will continue to be the most critical supporters of our country’s economic growth and social development goals.”

"IICEC is a pioneering model and center in Türkiye"

Referring to IICEC's "energy outlook" studies that have been pioneering in the sector since 2020, Güler Sabancı said, "IICEC has carried out the "Türkiye Energy Efficiency Outlook" study in the field of energy efficiency, where important steps have been taken in energy policies recently and Türkiye has high potential and critical opportunities, with a participatory approach with public, private sector, and academic stakeholders, which is a first in Türkiye. Creating value from science-based approaches and business world collaborations is one of the most critical success factors in today's world. IICEC is a pioneering model and center in Türkiye in this perspective. Bringing together organizations that are leaders in their fields and add value to their sectors, IICEC supports a more sustainable energy future through collective wisdom and collaborations."

Critical Findings and Recommendations in the IICEC Türkiye Energy Efficiency Outlook Report

IICEC Director Bora Şekip Güray, who carries out studies that provide an in-depth perspective on the energy sector, made the launch presentation of the 'IICEC Türkiye Energy Efficiency Outlook Report' at the conference. The study, which was conducted with a pioneering, analytical, and long-term perspective, modeling and scenario analyses in the sector, presented the concrete energy, economic, and climate contributions of the efficient growth perspective in energy. According to the findings of the study, the Efficient Growth Scenario can provide all of Türkiye's energy security, energy independence, and net-zero emission targets in a cost-effective manner. While an annual average economic gain of 58 billion dollars is achieved in the Efficient Growth Scenario through savings in energy imports and emissions until 2053, the annual average benefit-cost multiplier is 4.5. The Efficient Growth Scenario provides an annual average additional economic contribution of 28 billion dollars with an annual average investment of 4 billion dollars compared to the Base Scenario. In the Efficient Growth Scenario, the carbon intensity of the energy sector decreases by 70% by 2053, while the import rate in primary energy supply decreases from the current level of approximately two-thirds to tens of percent with the contribution of the increase in domestic production.

The study emphasizes the recently strengthened policy focus and targets in energy efficiency, while 11 concrete recommendations are presented for the sustainability of efficient and high value-added growth in energy. Bora Şekip Güray stated that Türkiye can reach an exemplary position on a global scale through efficient and competitive growth in energy with its strong demand dynamics on the one hand and high energy efficiency potential in demand sectors on the other. Güray stated that the important steps taken recently constitute an important basis, and that developments in this direction will strongly support Türkiye's vision of becoming a central country and net exporter in energy, as well as its energy security.

Murat Germen's Solo Exhibition at Maçka Art Gallery

Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SSBF) Faculty Member Murat Germen's solo exhibition Serap | Mirage opened at Maçka Art Gallery on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 17:00.

The exhibition entitled "Serap|Mirage" navigates the interplay between clarity and uncertainty and focuses on the temporary tension between the recognizable and the unrecognizable; in other words, what you see may not be what you find. Perception changes as you approach the image. Mirage appears in perception, meaning dissolves in uncertainty.

The exhibition is accompanied by a sonic installation consisting of cyclical and repetitive sound layers representing the order and chaos of the city, recorded from meditation instruments called "Aks-i Serap (mirage reflection)" designed by Selin Arslan.

TÜBİTAK 1001 Support for Our Faculty Members' Projects

TÜBİTAK's 1001 Scientific and Technological Research Projects Support Program 2024 2nd term evaluation results have been announced. Within the scope of the program, 5 projects from the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences of Sabancı University and 1 project from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences have been found deserving of support.

Our projects that received TÜBİTAK 1001 support in the 2nd Term of 2024:

Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

- Project entitled 'Effective Determination of Safe Routes After Disasters Using Drones', in which Faculty Member Tonguç Ünlüyurt is the principal investigator.
- Project entitled "Complex Dynamics and Fractal Convergence", in which Faculty Member Turgay Bayraktar is the principal investigator and Faculty Member Gökalp Alpan is the researcher.
- Project entitled "Development of SPDT and SP4T switches from DC to 300 GHz using SOI CMOS technology", in which Faculty Member Yaşar Gürbüz is the principal investigator.
- Project entitled "Regular Boundedness Assumptions in Arithmetic Dynamics", in which Faculty Member Mohammad Sadek is the principal investigator.
- Project entitled "Creation of a Technology-Based Proprioceptive Training Module and Evaluation of Its Effectiveness in Stroke Patients", in which Faculty Member Volkan Patoğlu is the advisor and Hacettepe University Faculty Member Muhammed Kılınç is the principal investigator.

Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Project entitled "The Relationship Between Changes in Autobiographical Memory with Aging and Theory of Mind", in which Faculty Member Çağla Aydın is the principal investigator and FENS Faculty Member Onur Varol is the researcher.

An Important Step from EFSUN: Three New Thematic Laboratories Established

Three new thematic laboratories have been established as an important outcome of the studies conducted by EFSUN, the Center of Excellence for Functional Surfaces and Interfaces, within the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences of Sabancı University.

These laboratories will support research in critical areas such as materials science, nanotechnology, energy storage, and thermal management, strengthen integration with industry, increase scientific collaborations and contribute to the development of next-generation technologies.

The established thematic laboratories are as follows:

- Thin Film Technologies Laboratory
- Functional Smart Surfaces, Interfaces, and Thermal Management Laboratory
- Energy Materials and Storage - Advanced Spectroscopic Characterization Laboratory

This new structure will increase EFSUN's visibility and recognition in the national and international arena, while enabling both interdisciplinary and more focused research. Thus, it will provide significant opportunities for establishing consortia, strengthening collaborations and expanding academic-industry networks in both national and international research projects and industry-focused projects.

This important stage has been reached thanks to the contributions of researchers, students, collaborators, supporters, and the Sabancı University administration. For more detailed information about the newly established thematic laboratories and to establish collaborations, EFSUN Research Center Director Emre Erdem can be contacted.

Sabancı University Welcoming Two Leading Computer Scientists as Adjunct Faculty Members of the FENS

Two world-class research scientists who are active in some of the fastest developing areas of Computer Science and Engineering, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are joining Sabancı University as Adjunct Faculty members. Dr. Ece Kamar (Microsoft Research, USA) and Dr. Kubilay Atasu (TU Delft, Netherlands) will be contributing to the research and education efforts at SU with their activities in cutting-edge research, undergraduate and graduate level teaching, student advising, thesis supervision, and project development.

We are confident that their valuable contributions will further boost the leading position of Sabancı University in Computer Science and Engineering. In the very near future, we will continue bolstering our strength in these areas with additional names.

Biographies

Ece Kamar is the Vice President and Lab Director of AI Frontiers at Microsoft Research in Redmond, WA, leading research and development towards pushing the frontiers of AI capabilities. AI Frontiers is a non-geographical, mission-focused lab inside Microsoft Research that explores innovations in foundation models and platform capabilities to push the frontier of AI capabilities, efficiency and control.

Ece's personal research focuses on developing AI systems that can function reliably in the open world in collaboration with people. She has a decade of experience studying the impact of AI on society and developing AI systems that are reliable, unbiased and trustworthy. She has been instrumental in building the Responsible AI efforts inside Microsoft. She serves as Technical Advisor for Microsoft's Internal Committee on AI, Engineering and Ethics.

Ece Kamar received her PhD in Computer Science from Harvard University in 2010 under the supervision of Professor Barbara J. Grosz, with her doctoral thesis entitled "Reasoning Effectively Under Uncertainty for Human-Computer Teamwork". She is an alumna of Sabancı University, having completed her BSc degree in Computer Science and Engineering in 2005. She has been awarded the Robert L. Wallace Prize Fellowship at Harvard and the Microsoft Research Graduate Research Fellowship.

Kubilay Atasu is an Associate Professor at the Delft University of Technology, where he is affiliated with the Data Intensive Systems Section of the Department of Software Technology.

He is a Senior Member of IEEE and the principal investigator of a Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) project aimed at building scalable graph ML solutions for financial crime analysis. His research interests include graph algorithms, graph neural networks, parallel computing, hardware acceleration, and their applications to real-world problems.

Before joining TU Delft in January 2024, Dr. Atasu was a Senior Research Scientist at IBM Research – Zurich , where he spent 15 years. Notably, he led a global IBM Research Challenge on scalable and automated graph machine learning from 2021 to 2023. This effort led to new AI-powered real-time transaction monitoring capabilities in IBM's mainframe software solutions (specifically, in the AI Toolkit for IBM Z and LinuxOne) as well as an IBM Outstanding Technical Accomplishment Award in December 2023.

While with IBM Research – Zurich, Dr. Atasu also taught postgraduate courses at the University of Tübingen and at the Sabancı University. Furthermore, he served in the technical program committees or organizing committees of more than 50 scientific conferences and co-chaired two (IEEE ASAP 2013 and IEEE ASAP 2014 conferences).

Before joining IBM Research – Zurich, he was with the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (2002–2003), Boğaziçi University Istanbul (2003–2005), and Imperial College London (2005–2008), where he worked on design automation of application-specific microprocessors, and obtained two best paper awards for this work (at the DAC 2003 and at the IEEE ASAP 2008 conferences).

Fuat Keyman Commemorated with "A Life in Pursuit of Science" Event

Fuat Keyman, Vice President of Sabancı University and Professor of International Relations, who passed away last October, was commemorated with an event held at Sabancı University Istanbul Policy Center (IPC) Minerva Han.

The event entitled "Prof. Dr. Fuat Keyman: A Life in Pursuit of Science" featured speeches from many valuable academics and civil society representatives who crossed paths with Keyman in their academic careers and private lives. The commemoration event, which was strongly attended on May 15-16, began with the opening speeches of Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, Sabancı University IPC Director Senem Aydın-Düzgit, and Middlebury College Faculty Member Şebnem Gümüşçü. In the panels held over two days, speakers addressed Fuat Keyman's intellectual side as well as his vision and mindset in contexts such as democracy, social equality, equal citizenship, international collaborations, and Turkish foreign policy. The closing ceremony of the first day of the commemoration event was carried out by Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı.

Academics and Civil Society Representatives from Türkiye and Abroad Gathered

The panelists included many prominent figures from Türkiye and abroad: Feyzi Baban, Atila Eralp, Engin Işın, Ayşe Kadıoğlu, Galip Yalman, Kamil Yılmaz, Vural Çakır, Delal Dink, Mert Fırat, Hüsamettin Koçan, Çiğdem Nas, Hakan Yavuzyılmaz, Galip Dalay, Mustafa Kutlay, Ziya Öniş, Nigün Arısan Eralp, Alper Kaliber, Meltem Müftüler-Baç, Nora Fisher-Onar, Anne Duncker, Magdalena Kirchner, Michael Schwarz, Wolfgang Rohe, Yılmaz Büyükerşen, Fırat Genç, Çağlar Keyder, Berrin Koyuncu-Lorasdağı, Ahmet İçduygu, Ayşe Köse Badur, Bahar Rumelili, Fikret Adaman, Zeynep Gülru Göker, Nebi Sümer, Ümit Şahin, and Zafer Yenal.

Berk Esen, Şuhnaz Yılmaz, Ahmet Evin, Pelin Oğuz, Cana Tülüş Türk, and Nebi Sümer acted as moderators in the panels.

Projects from Sabancı University Members to Lead the Technological Transformation

According to the results of the TÜBİTAK BİGG 2024-2 Call, announced in recent months, 11 entrepreneurs were granted 900.000 TL investment. Among the projects that received investment, there are projects by Sabancı University PhD, MS, and Undergraduate students.

With the entrepreneur support program BiGG3INN, in which Sabancı University Inovent is the consortium leader, TÜBİTAK provides 900.000 TL capital support to entrepreneurs with technology-based business ideas. According to the results of the TÜBİTAK BİGG 2024-2 Call, announced within the scope of the program, Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences (FENS) Industrial Engineering Master's student Furkan Kerim Yıldırım was found deserving of the investment support with his "Flio" project, FENS Computer Science and Engineering program undergraduate student Ahmet Raif Ünlü with his Elendin project, and FENS Postdoctoral Researcher Arash Ebrahimi Araghizad with his iNTEMO project. FENS Faculty Member Mohaned Chraiti received investment support with his project called ERP Pilot.

'FLiO' - FURKAN KERİM YILDIRIM

Sabancı University FENS Computer Science and Engineering program 2024 graduate and Industrial Engineering program master's student Furkan Kerim Yıldırım aims to transform logistics and transportation with the latest technology with the Flio project, the foundations of which he laid in August 2023. Yıldırım explained his project as follows: "At Flio, our product range is designed to increase safety, efficiency, and accessibility for both businesses and individual users. Our product, Driver Behavior Monitoring Camera (FLEYE), which we developed with my partner Yiğit Ali Karadoğan and was awarded the TÜBİTAK BiGG seal of excellence, uses advanced computer vision models to analyze driver behavior in real time. With this solution, we aim to detect signs of distraction and fatigue, as well as mobile phone use and smoking, and to ensure road safety by sending timely warnings to drivers and logistics managers."

'ELENDİN' - RAİF ÜNLÜ / YUSUF ERKAM KÖKSAL

Sabancı University FENS Computer Science and Engineering program senior students Raif Ünlü and Yusuf Erkam Köksal's project called Elendin has been awarded the seal of excellence and investment within the scope of TÜBİTAK BİGG 2024. Elendin is an innovative quiz game that makes it easier for students to learn while preparing for ranking exams such as YKS and TUS, and makes the process fun and motivating. Raif Ünlü explained the project as follows: "Thanks to our previous initiative, we gained significant experience in the education sector and observed serious deficiencies in the sector. The biggest of these was that although student data is incredibly important in education, many educational institutions either do not keep this data at all or do not process it effectively. Based on this deficiency, we decided to establish an initiative that will both optimize students' learning processes and provide educational institutions with a model for data management. Elendin's greatest value proposition is that it stands out as a data provider in the education sector. With our artificial intelligence coaching and machine learning-supported learning models, we optimize students' performance and determine which questions are more selective or which questions students learn more effectively with. In this process, we create a unique learning and question database in the sector by having students label the data we collect in a game format. We can also quickly adapt this system to all competitive exams for which we can provide sufficient question data. We have adapted the dynamics used by modern competitive games to the education sector. While the league and cup systems in Elendin ensure that students are constantly motivated, competition with friends and real-time competition mechanics make the learning process more exciting and engaging. Elendin fits perfectly into the highly competitive education sector with its innovative approach."

‘iNTEMO’ - ARASH EBRAHİMİ ARAGHİZAD

Sabancı University PhD graduate Arash Ebrahimi Araghizad laid the foundation for intelligent monitoring systems that utilize machine learning and artificial intelligence with his doctoral research under the guidance of Prof. Erhan Budak. This work paved the way for Araghizad’s iNTEMO project. iNTEMO aims to revolutionize the manufacturing sector by integrating advanced AI-supported monitoring into the machining process. Araghizad said the following about his project, “Based on rigorous academic research, iNTEMO develops systems with real-time application capacity in industrial environments. These intelligent monitoring systems can detect the source of errors and prevent further problems on the production line. Therefore, they are highly suitable for industries that require high precision in part production or mass production. In addition, these approaches help increase the sustainability of the production process by reducing waste and energy consumption, thus supporting environmental and sustainability goals. We believe that an important step has been taken towards smarter, more sustainable manufacturing practices with the transition from academic theory to industrial application.”

‘ERP PILOT’ - MOHANED CHRAITI

Sabancı University FENS Electronic Engineering Faculty Member Dr. Mohaned Chraiti aims to support the development and growth potential of SMEs by making ERP systems cost-effective with his project called ERP Pilot. Chraiti provided the following information about the ERP Pilot project: “With the developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning, there is a growing trend to replace consulting services in various sectors with chatbots, reducing costs and making these services more accessible. ERP systems are also necessary tools for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to digitalize their operations and enable real-time resource optimization and management. However, the cost of this with ERP companies can reach tens of thousands of dollars. 87% of SMEs in Turkey do not use an ERP system despite knowing its potential advantages, especially due to the high cost. ERP Pilot allows SMEs to implement their own ERP systems through a chatbot supported by advanced machine learning techniques. This innovative approach automates the customization process without the need for external consultants, reducing the cost to only 10% compared to traditional methods.”

TÜBİTAK 2566 Support for Özgür Gürbüz’s ‘Terahertz Communication’ Project

The project entitled “Communication and Networking for Terahertz Band Space-Air-Ground Integrated Networks” by Özgür Gürbüz, member of Sabancı University’s Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, has been granted support within the scope of the TÜBİTAK 2566 - Bilateral Cooperation Program with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

The project, which aims to make significant contributions to the field of wireless communication in the THz band, will be carried out by Prof. Dr. Özgür Gürbüz and Prof. Dr. Chong Han from Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

‘Communication and Networking for Terahertz Band Space-Air-Ground Integrated Networks’ project information:

As the mobile communication network evolves from the fifth generation (5G) to the sixth generation (6G), the demand for capabilities such as comprehensive communication, mass communication, and ubiquitous connectivity will increase significantly. The integrated space-air-ground network (IAGAN) has the potential to provide ubiquitous coverage by integrating terrestrial communication networks, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) networks, and inter-satellite (ISL) communication networks. These new technologies pose a challenging requirement for the high data rates of wireless communication, which requires the Terahertz (THz) band, thanks to continuous bandwidth resources of hundreds of gigahertz. This project, which will investigate the basic communication and network technologies for using the THz band for IAGAN, will bring together the experiences of Prof. Özgür Gürbüz from Sabancı University and Prof. Chong Han from Shanghai Jiao Tong University and will enable collaborations.

TÜBİTAK 2566 Program:

2566 – TÜBİTAK – NSFC (China) Bilateral Cooperation Program aims to support the development of cooperation between Türkiye and China in the fields of science, technology, and innovation. The calls opened within the scope of the program aim to establish sustainable partnerships between the two countries in the fields of science, technology, and innovation.

Our Faculty Member Kemal Kılıç's Course was Accepted at Venice International University

The course titled "Surviving and Thriving in the Transforming World: The Digital Mindset & Skillset", proposed by Sabancı University faculty member Kemal Kılıç, has been selected as one of the six courses accepted into Venice International University's 2025 Summer Program. A total of 22 applications were submitted, and Kılıç's course was among those selected through this process.

This four-week course by Kemal Kılıç aims to equip students with the mindset and skills necessary to succeed in volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) environments in the era of digital transformation. The course covers a broad spectrum, ranging from cognitive sciences to innovation approaches such as Design Thinking and Lean Startup, as well as digitalization technologies including artificial intelligence (AI & GenAI), the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, and augmented reality.

The VIU Globalization Program – Summer Session offers an interdisciplinary and multicultural learning experience at Venice International University. Running from August 5 to 30, 2025, it includes six courses covering topics such as digital transformation, gender and media, data visualization, and postcolonial studies. Each course combines virtual components with in-person sessions and is open to students from VIU's member universities.

Undergraduate students of Sabancı University can participate in this program as part of the exchange program. For application requirements and more information, you can contact suoutgoing@sabanciuniv.edu.

8th HomomorphicEncryption.org Standards Meeting was held in Istanbul

8th HomomorphicEncryption.org Standards Meeting was held in Istanbul, Türkiye on March 23, 2025.

The meeting kicked off with a warm welcome from Prof. Erkay Savas (Sabancı University) acknowledging enCRYPTON project and announcing the upcoming conference LightSec 2025 to be held on 1-3 September 2025 in İstanbul, Türkiye. The introduction was followed by Kamil Otal from TÜBİTAK BİLGEM and Steering Commitee member Kurt Rohloff from Duality Technologies. A highlight of the morning was the keynote by Prof. Ingrid Verbauwhede (KU Leuven COSIC), offering a talk entitled "Hardware acceleration for FHE: Strategy and Applications".

Throughout the day, engaging breakout sessions covered crucial topics such as security, use cases & benchmarking and hardware interfaces led by experts Yuriy Polyakov, Shruthi Gorantala and Florent Michel. These discussions played a key role in shaping the next steps for standardization and implementation in this evolving field.

The participants are 84 professionals from 17 different countries across four continents and 14 universities. Within Türkiye, participants come from various universities and institutions. While 32.1% of the participants are female, more than half are from institutes outside of Türkiye. There was also participation from industry and research centers in Türkiye and around the world.

We would like to thank to the organizing team, speakers, and all participants for their valuable contributions. Looking forward to the upcoming discussions and collaborations that will drive the future of homomorphic encryption!

Sabancı University will Participate in Quantum Sensor Technology Development for CERN

Sabancı University will take part in CERN's global R&D initiative DRD5 project, which aims to advance quantum sensor technologies for particle physics.

In 2020, the European Committee for Future Accelerators (ECFA) laid out a roadmap to develop new quantum sensors and related technologies. The roadmap includes the Detector Research & Development (DRD5) program, which aims to enable R&D activities on a global scale. This initiative is part of a larger effort to develop detectors for future particle physics experiments across multiple technologies.

The DRD5 project proposes a globally coordinated R&D initiative to advance quantum sensor technologies for particle physics, addressing a critical gap in existing research efforts. Unlike high-energy physics detector development, quantum sensing requires the creation of new collaborations and new fields of pioneering research. In this context, a workshop was organized at CERN in 2023, bringing together experts from various disciplines to identify new and critical research directions with a strategic approach. The project proposal, which is the result of the workshop, outlines Work Packages targeting specific technological challenges and opportunities in the field of quantum sensing for particle physics.

This initiative fosters international collaboration between the quantum technology and particle physics communities, accelerating innovation through shared expertise, coordinated research, and efficient resource allocation. The project envisions a framework that supports fundamental advancements in quantum sensing while ensuring that developments align with the needs of future high-energy physics experiments. Additionally, it seeks to establish an adaptable organizational structure that can evolve alongside emerging research priorities and technological breakthroughs. This approach will provide the ability to respond dynamically to evolving needs throughout the project. By uniting global efforts, the initiative has the potential to drive transformative progress in both quantum technologies and particle physics, creating momentum that could reshape the boundaries of the fields.

Sabancı University will participate in the Work Packages (WPs) outlined in this research initiative on quantum sensors for particle physics. Our faculty members and researchers from the university will engage in various WPs, bringing their expertise in quantum materials, superconducting devices, sensing techniques, and capacity expansion. This participation will not only contribute to the global effort in advancing quantum sensing technologies but also pave the way for Sabancı University to further develop precise quantum technologies for sensing applications.

Specifically, Sabancı University will take part in:

- WP2 (Quantum Materials): Yılmaz Şimşek, İnanç Adagideli, Zafer Gedik, Alhun Aydın, Murat Kaya Yapıcı, İsmet Kaya, Gözde İnce, and Emre Erdem.
- WP3 (Quantum Superconducting Devices): İsmet Kaya, Yılmaz Şimşek, İnanç Adagideli, Zafer Gedik, and Alhun Aydın.
- WP5 (Quantum Techniques for Sensing): Göktuğ Karpat, İsmet Kaya, Yılmaz Şimşek, and Zafer Gedik.
- WP6 (Capacity Expansion, particularly in education and exchange platforms): Ferruh Özbudak, Zafer Gedik, and Göktuğ Karpat.

Through this collaboration, Sabancı University will strengthen its role in the global quantum research and advance its capabilities in the development of cutting-edge quantum sensing technologies.

On June 6, 2024, CERN's Research Board approved the DRD5 proposal after reviewing the submitted proposal and a presentation on June 4. The Collaboration Board (CB) is chaired by Marcel Demarteau of ORNL and currently consists of one representative for each of the 100 founding institutes. The spokesperson is Michael Doser of CERN, with Steven Worm of DESY serving as the deputy spokesperson.

Developing Research and Education Links with the Leading Universities of Singapore

Our President Prof. Yusuf Leblebici and our Vice President for Education Prof. Cem Güneri have visited two of the leading higher education institutions in Singapore, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and National University of Singapore (NUS), upon invitations of Professor Ling San, Deputy President and Provost of NTU, and Professor Tan Eng Chye, President of NUS. Prof. Ling San is also a member of our International Board of Overseers.

Professor Yusuf Leblebici together with Professor Ernst Kuipers, Vice President for Research of NTU and former Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport of The Netherlands.

The meetings with the administrations officials of both universities are intended to further enhance the existing research and education ties with Sabancı University, and to explore new avenues of collaboration. At NTU, Prof. Leblebici and Prof. Güneri also met with Prof. Ernst Kuipers, Vice President for Research, Prof. Lee Pooi See, Vice President for International Affairs, Prof. Gan Chee Lip, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Prof. Victoria Leong, Associate Dean of the Graduate College, Prof. Zheng Yuanjin, Director of the Centre for Integrated Circuits and Systems (CICS), Prof. Liu Yang, Director of the Cyber Security Research Centre (CYSREN), as well as the Heads of the Office of International Engagement and the Applications of Teaching & Learning Analytics for Students (ATLAS). The meetings at National University of Singapore (NUS) also involved the Deputy President and Provost, Prof. Aaron Thean Voon Yew, and Prof. Lum Sau Kim, Associate Vice President for Global Relations.

At the same time, Dr. Emre Erol, Director of Foundations Development Directorate at Sabancı University, had meetings at NTU with the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and the leaders of NTU's Institute for Pedagogical Innovation, Research & Excellence (InsPIRE) and the Interdisciplinary Collaborative Core (ICC) Office. During his visit, Dr. Erol attended ICC-coordinated core curriculum classes, explored NTU's specially designed learning spaces, and engaged in discussions with ICC course coordinators and instructors.

Nanyang Technological University (NTU), founded in 1991, is ranked 15th in QS World University Rankings, and 30th in Times Higher Education World University Rankings. National University of Singapore (NUS), founded in 1980, is ranked 8th in QS World University Rankings, and 27th in Times Higher Education World University Rankings. NUS is also a founding member of Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation (GESDA) Forum, together with Sabancı University.

Professor Yusuf Leblebici together with Professor Tan Eng Chye, President of NUS.

MaTA Conference in Istanbul

The Microfluidics-aided Technologies and Applications (MaTA) Conference was held in collaboration with the Chemical and Biological Microsystems Society (CBMS) on May 12-13, 2025 in Istanbul. This conference explored the latest developments in microfluidics-aided Technologies and their diverse applications.

Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Faculty Member, EFSUN and SUNUM researcher Prof. Ali Koşar, Yegan Erdem from Bilkent University, Séverine Le Gac from University of Twente, Özlem Yeşil Çeliktaş from Ege University were the co-chairs. This event was sponsored by SUNUM-Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center, EFSUN, Sabancı Üniversitesi, Microqubic, Demir Lab Sis, and CBMS.

This event started with the opening speech of the Sabancı University President Prof. Yusuf Leblebici. Prominent scientists in the field were invited speakers and delivered inspiring talks. A rich scientific program was presented to the attendees as well as a rich social program.

Our Adjunct Faculty Member Dr. Ece Kamar was Awarded with the Title of "Distinguished Scientist"

Our Adjunct Faculty Member Dr. Ece Kamar, has recently been recognized with the distinction of Distinguished Scientist title at Microsoft Research.

This distinction is indicative of the highest level of sustained individual technical impact and influence at the division or company level, deep individual technical knowledge and innovation in a critical area of expertise, personal accountability for business success, and industry impact.

An alumna of Sabanci University (BSc 2005) and Harvard University (PhD 2010), Dr. Ece Kamar is serving as the Managing Director of the MSR AI Frontiers Lab. As a renowned expert in human-AI collaboration, responsible AI, and agent-based systems, Kamar has made significant contributions to both fundamental capabilities and practical deployments. Her pioneering work on large language models (LLMs) has had a profound impact on the industry, addressing critical issues such as reducing hallucinations, mitigating adversarial behavior and hate speech, and enhancing performance through multi-agent and AI-human platforms. Ece's personal research focuses on developing AI systems that can function reliably in the open world in collaboration with people. She has a decade of experience studying the impact of AI on society and developing AI systems that are reliable, unbiased, and trustworthy. She has been instrumental in building our Responsible AI efforts and serves as Technical Advisor for Microsoft's Internal Committee on AI, Engineering and Ethics. As the Director of the AI Frontiers lab, she has guided MSR to invent and gain wide adoption of key AI technologies such as Autogen, Magentic One, Orca, and Phi. Beyond her technical achievements, Kamar is deeply committed to nurturing the next generation of technical leaders, demonstrating her dedication to mentorship and growth within the AI community.

We sincerely congratulate Ece Kamar for this well-deserved distinction!

TÜBİTAK Support for Our Faculty Members' Project

The research project of Sabancı University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Faculty Members Zeynep Gülru Göker and Cenk Özbay has been awarded support under the TÜBİTAK 2515-COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology Program.

The research project entitled "Social and Political Construction and Negotiation of Entrepreneurial Subjectivity in Türkiye: An Examination at Different Urban Scales" has been awarded support under the TÜBİTAK 2515-COST European Cooperation in Science and Technology Program. The project will shed light on the international studies conducted within the scope of the COST Action entitled "Research Network for Interdisciplinary Studies of Transhistorical Deliberative Democracy (CHANGECODE)" in which Zeynep Gülru Göker is a steering committee member.

The main objectives of the research, which adopts an interdisciplinary approach with political science and sociology as the main disciplines, include understanding the role and contribution of municipalities and local governments in the formation, dissemination, and mainstreaming of the idea of entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial human type (or subjectivity) in Türkiye, documenting the extent to which entrepreneurship is used as a way out or an alternative urban development strategy in cities experiencing social, demographic, and economic stagnation or regression and the results this produces, and looking at the social, cultural, urban, and political dialogue and negotiation channels that can emerge from local entrepreneurs, especially young people, and civil society organizations.

The project will be completed in 24 months. Zeynep Gülru Göker will be the principal investigator of the project and Cenk Özbay will be the researcher. The project will have contributions from one PhD and two MA scholarship holders. Ayşe Betül Çelik will be consulted at certain stages of the research.

2025 London Alumni Gathering

The London Alumni Gathering took place on Saturday, May 10th at Six Park Place in London.

Our President Yusuf Leblebici, our Vice President Cem Güneri, our deans Erkay Savaş, Meltem Müftüler-Baç, and Ayşegül Toker, our Institutional Partnerships and Alumni Relations Director Cenk Efe Bayırlı, Fundraising Leader Zeliha Algül, and Alumni Office Leader Cansu Karabağlı attended the alumni gathering. 133 of our alumni attended the gathering, where our President Yusuf Leblebici gave the opening speech.

After his opening speech, our President Yusuf Leblebici made a presentation to our alumni. In the presentation, which included current information, our President shed light on the position of our university worldwide, the achievements of our alumni, and the point reached after 25 years.

After the presentation, our alumni had the opportunity to chat with our academic staff and other alumni and had an enjoyable day.

Sabancı University Ranks 74th Among the Best Universities in Asia

According to the results of the THE Asia University Rankings 2025, Sabancı University ranked 74th, moving up one place compared to the previous year. It ranked 2nd among the 91 universities from Türkiye that were included in the rankings.

The THE Asian University Rankings methodology consists of 18 indicators, such as Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, International Outlook, and Industry, as in the World University Rankings.

Other universities from Türkiye that entered the THE Asian University Rankings this year and their positions in the rankings are as follows: METU ranked 72nd, Koç University ranked 79th, İTÜ ranked 97th, and Boğaziçi University ranked 123rd.

Tsinghua University and Peking University from China ranked first and second, respectively, while National University of Singapore ranked third in the rankings.

TeamNANO Project Launch Meeting

The launch meeting of the project entitled "Teaming for Capacity Development and Synergies in Micro-Nanofabrication and Flexible Electronics for Widespread Impact-TeamNANO", started on November 6, 2024 and supported by the Horizon Europe Program Teaming call under the coordination of Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center (SUNUM) was held on January 30-31, 2025.

TeamNANO, which has the highest budget project given to a single institution in the history of our country with the evaluation of the European Union Commission, is carried out with the EU budget of 9 million Euros and the co-financing of the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye within the scope of the HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-01 (Teaming for Excellence) call.

Emphasizing that a project from Türkiye has been funded for the first time in the Teaming calls that have been ongoing since Horizon 2020 with TeamNANO, SUNUM Director Prof. Dr. Alpagut Kara stated that this project aims to develop the devices and technological capabilities in SUNUM's clean room infrastructure through international cooperation. Kara stated that the project aims to increase our country's international competitive power in the field of science and technology and to take on a pioneering role in new generation flexible electronic systems and micro-nanofabrication processes.

The meeting hosted over 100 national and international participants from the public sector, universities, industry, private sector and research institutions on January 30.

"We have established solid bridges between the state, university, industry, and end users"

Sabancı University Nanotechnology Research and Application Center - SUNUM Board of Directors Chair Cevdet Alemdar expressed that they are proud that the TeamNANO Project is the first Teaming project to be supported under the coordination of a Turkish institution in the history of the Türkiye-EU Framework Programs. Alemdar said, "With this project, SUNUM will take the work it is currently doing even further. Significant changes have occurred in SUNUM, especially in the last two years. SUNUM, as a center of excellence, has taken important steps to bring science closer to industry and technology. By building solid bridges between the state, university, industry, and end users, we have addressed the expectations of all parties with a holistic approach. Managing these relationships continues to be our main priority. Today, we are taking an important step by strengthening one of these bridges. A larger bridge is being built on our existing connections with Europe, and for the first time, Türkiye is receiving support through SUNUM in a science project. The dedication of the SUNUM team and their determination in the face of challenges have made this possible."

"TeamNANO will guide industrial organizations in Türkiye and the world"

Sabancı University President Prof. Dr. Yusuf Leblebici, emphasized that the TeamNANO Project is an important breakthrough for our country's advanced technology infrastructure and human resources as Sabancı University celebrates its 25 years. Leblebici said, "The TeamNANO project is a strategic initiative that aims to use the current capacity in the most efficient way and further develop it with additions, and will serve as a pilot facility in Türkiye and the region. This project will not only provide a platform for researching topics of interest, but will also be a center that will guide the industry and the steps of industrial organizations in Türkiye and the world in this field. The technologies to be developed here will pave the way for the industry and make significant contributions to the sector. This comprehensive and long-term project is a major breakthrough that covers many stages, starting from the most basic atomic level to the development of the most complex systems. We are very happy to bring this project to life under the roof of Sabancı University."

"This six-year project focuses on future technologies"

TÜBİTAK Vice President Prof. Dr. Mesut Güner stated that he has been serving as a board member at SUNUM since 2017, when SUNUM was selected as one of the four national research infrastructures, and that it is a great source of happiness for him to join this meeting. Güner, who drew attention to the strategic importance of TeamNANO for our country, said, "TeamNANO has gone down in history as the project with the highest budget given to an institution by the European Commission and is implemented with the support of approximately 9 million Euros of EU funds as well as TÜBİTAK and the relevant ministry. This six-year project focuses on future technologies such as micro and nano fabrication and flexible electronics. It is of great importance to invest more in such projects in order to increase the share of high technology in our country's exports. The inclusion of scientists from abroad in the project is a great opportunity to expand our country's international competitive power and scientific network. At TÜBİTAK, we are very proud to support projects that advance science and technology."

"Research infrastructures need to be brought together effectively"

Dr. Çetin Ali Dönmez, Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye, said that the effective use of research infrastructures and the development of a culture of cooperation in Türkiye are of great importance. Çetin Ali Dönmez continued, "Research infrastructures located in different cities across Türkiye need to be brought together more effectively. Beyond academy, industry, and public cooperation, the development of university-university and industry-industry cooperation is also of great importance. The successful practices of the European Union in this field can be an example for Türkiye. The private sector should increase its R&D investments. SUNUM, operating at Sabancı University, has been supported by the Ministry of Industry and Technology within the scope of Law No. 6550 since 2017 and resources are transferred through TÜBİTAK. TeamNANO, a cooperation project, is the result of the work in SUNUM, one of the most successful research infrastructures. Within the scope of Türkiye's industry and technology strategy, research infrastructures will be taken to higher levels with long-term, predictable support programs."

“A sustainable structure should be created in terms of cooperation”

Karina Firkaviciute, TeamNANO European Union Project Manager, drew attention to the importance of developing opportunities and shaping projects in a way that will create an impact in the country. Firkaviciute said, “We can start small, but it is possible to reach big goals with small steps. There is serious added value and real potential here. It is possible for universities to make great progress and even lead changes and impacts throughout the country. Therefore, you should evaluate opportunities in different areas and be open to our support. Engineering and nanotechnology are very popular today. You can accelerate your development by sharing information with all your partners. It is important to take the infrastructure even further by protecting it. A sustainable structure should be created not only in terms of scientific development but also cooperation. At this point, we expect a strong and determined partnership from all partners.”

Following the launch meeting, the TeamNANO Project consortium meeting was held on January 31, 2025. Researchers and officials from TU The University of Southampton (United Kingdom), Delft University of Technology (Netherlands), and SUNUM attended the meetings that lasted all day. The meeting started with a visit to the laboratory and clean room, which included SUNUM's existing infrastructure and planned modernization works, and the critical points of the project, research components and business development strategies were evaluated in detail. Karina Firkaviciute, TeamNANO European Union Project Officer, provided important information about the project implementation process.

TeamNANO aims to modernize the devices and technological capabilities in SUNUM's clean room infrastructure in collaboration with The University of Southampton (UK) and Delft University of Technology (Netherlands). In this context, TeamNANO aims to increase our country's international competitive power in the field of science and technology and to take a leading role in next-generation flexible electronic systems and micro-nanofabrication processes.

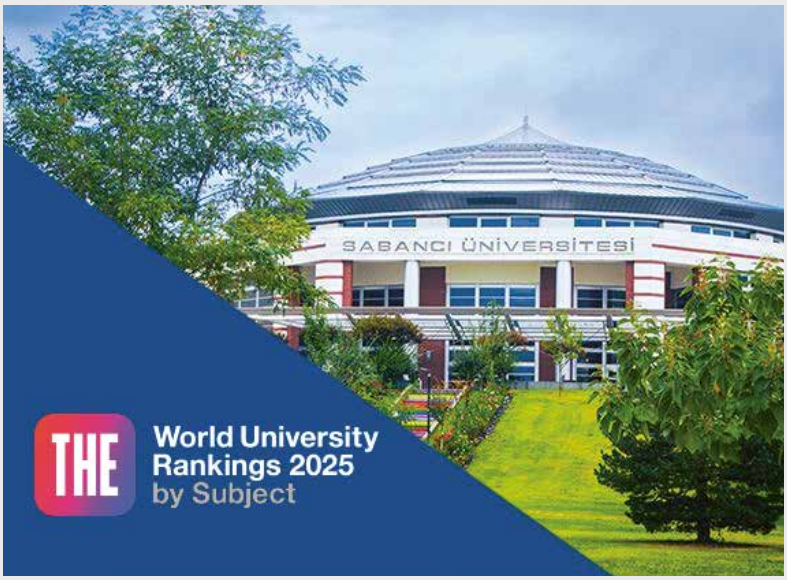
Sabancı University Maintains Its Place Among the Best Universities in the THE Rankings

Times Higher Education (THE) has announced its 2025 World University Rankings by subject. The methodology of the 2025 World University Rankings by Subject determined by the UK-based higher education rating organization Times Higher Education (THE) consists of 5 main pillars, namely Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, Industry, and International Outlook, and 17 sub-indicators under these pillars, as in the World University Rankings.

THE customizes the indicator weights taken into account in the World University Rankings by Subject, considering the dynamics specific to the subjects.

We are among the top universities in Türkiye that entered the rankings

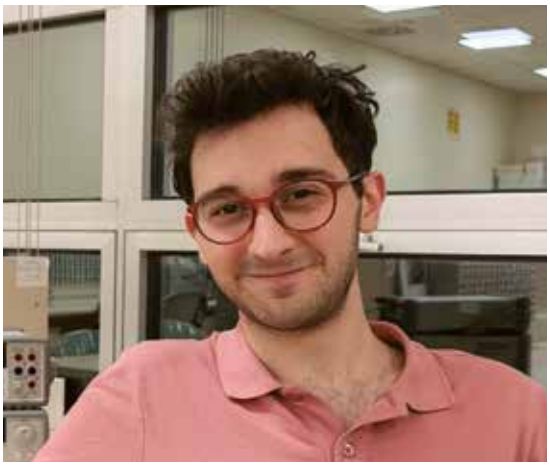
Our university rose compared to the previous year in the Natural Sciences field in the THE rankings and became first among the universities in Türkiye that entered the rankings, and ranked in the 401-500 bracket. In the fields of Engineering and Computer Science, our university maintained its success and ranked in the 351-400 bracket. Our university also ranked 2nd in the 201-250 bracket in the field of Social Sciences and 4th in the 301-400 bracket in the field of Business and Economics, once again becoming one of the most successful universities in Türkiye included in the ranking.



Arda Özdemir Accepted to MIT: Our University Gave Me the Opportunity to Understand What I Wanted to Do Passionately

Arda Özdemir, a senior student in the Department of Electronics Engineering at Sabancı University's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, was accepted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) PhD program. Özdemir told GazeteSU about his MIT journey.

Can you tell us about your MIT application and acceptance process? What were the factors in your choice of MIT and studying abroad? Do you have any advice for Sabancı students who want to follow the same path?



As in most universities, when evaluating PhD applications at MIT, the first step is to look at the transcript and language score. Although the expectations of the committee vary depending on the school, a high GPA and a good language score are generally expected. Once these basic conditions are met, the real determining factors are your CV, statement of purpose, and references. The statement of purpose in particular is the most critical part of the application, where you explain the process that brought you to this point. The most important point for me was to show that my academic journey was shaped by conscious choices and that every step was connected to my academic goals. The statement of purpose is not just a summary of your academic background, but a story that shows how all the decisions you make add up. Therefore, every detail you mention should tell you how you arrived at your current research focus. I am graduating from Sabancı University's Electronics Engineering program this semester. Especially the circuit courses I took since my sophomore year have led me to the field of microelectronic circuits and systems. In the summer of my junior year, I gained my first research experience on RF integrated circuits with my internship project at IHP Microelectronics in Germany. Currently, while the production of the chip I designed there continues, I am also working on automotive radar systems with Prof. Dr. Yaşar Gürbüz at Sabancı University Microelectronics Research Group (SUMER) as part of my graduation project. Actually, all these research experiences have led me to specialize in RF integrated circuit design.

The literature in this field is actually shaped around certain figures and research groups. For this reason, I directed my applications especially to universities with strong microelectronics research groups, such as MIT. During the application period, I examined in detail the studies published in recent years by the groups I applied to at MIT and clearly stated how my research focus matched theirs. There was no separate interview process in my application. At most universities, if your application catches the attention of a professor, you will have a one-on-one interview, but at MIT, this process is usually managed by a committee. In both cases, it is very important to be able to clearly express your contribution to the academic work you have done. After all, everyone has a different story. The important thing is to be able to tell your own story in the best way possible and to show why it led you to that program.

What experiences did you gain during your education at Sabancı University? How do you think these experiences have contributed to your current and future life?

My education at Sabancı University not only gave me technical knowledge, but also showed me how to apply this knowledge in the context of both academic research and industry projects, and how to relate it to different areas. The courses in microelectronic circuits and systems in particular played a major role in directing my interest in this field. The circuit theory and laboratory courses I took in my sophomore year introduced me to current circuit design problems, while also providing me with practical experience in prototyping and measurement processes. I have been an assistant in these courses for three semesters. Helping students, preparing materials for laboratory applications, and realizing that I grasp a topic more deeply while explaining it made this process very valuable for me. My interest in this field became even clearer with the analog and digital integrated circuit design courses I took in my junior year. In addition, I reinforced my basic knowledge of production technologies with semiconductor physics and microelectronic fabrication courses. My interest in RF and microwave design began with the introductory RF courses I took, and I realized that the technical challenges and research opportunities in this field were much deeper than I thought. This whole process not only taught me theoretical knowledge, but also showed me how valuable it is to be actively involved in the research process. I found my summer internship through university connections, and with my graduation project, I gained my first academic experience at the system level. When I look at all of this, my education at Sabancı taught me how to transform knowledge into a product.

How did you decide to study Electronics Engineering in the first place? What led you to choose Sabancı University?

I already knew that I wanted to study electronics before I started Sabancı University. Actually, my interest in electronics comes from my childhood. While disassembling old devices and looking at the invisible world inside them with admiration, this admiration eventually turned into curiosity and then passion. Especially the STEM education I received at Antalya Bahçeşehir Science and Technology High School during my high school years really led me to this field. Of course, my experience in electronics started with small Arduino projects like everyone else, and it was reinforced over time with competition teams such as First Lego League and Destination Imagination. At first, while I was playing with microcontroller cards, I was more interested in embedded systems. On the other hand, I gained my first academic publication experience in the 11th grade with a neuropsychology study we conducted on the effect of anxiety on mathematical thinking in adolescents. Here, we showed university exam-style math questions to subjects with high and low anxiety levels, while measuring their brain activations with functional MRI scans. While analyzing and interpreting this data in MATLAB, the signal processing and neuroscience aspects also started to interest me. Thanks to the freedom to choose a program at Sabancı, the courses I took from different departments showed me that the intersections of electronics with other fields were not limited to what I knew. In my sophomore year, I took an introductory materials course for some general knowledge, and when the semiconductor field caught my attention, I suddenly found myself as a microelectronic circuit designer. Even if you feel very close to a department when you enter Sabancı, it is important to be open to exploring different fields. University is not only an opportunity to choose a profession, but also to understand who you are and what you are passionate about.

What do you think about our university's Electronics Program?

I can say that the Electronics Program at Sabancı University provides a very intensive and comprehensive education in general. Since most of the courses I took are project-based, it is actually a great advantage to be able to get into the practical aspect of things early. Of course, my own observations were more on the microelectronics side, so if I were to talk specifically about this field, I see that the university also produces very competitive work in terms of academic publications. One of the things that surprised me the most was that I had access to professional design tools such as ADS and Cadence while I was still at the undergraduate level. These programs used in chip design are generally taught in graduate programs in Europe. Even in the US, there are very few universities that provide such comprehensive microelectronics education at the undergraduate level. Starting from the third year, we use this software in almost all courses, such as analog, RF, digital, mixed-signal integrated circuit design. As you get deeper, you realize how critical it is to use these tools, because no matter which area of circuit design you work in, every project goes through similar stages, and certain software is used both in academia and in the industry. For example, I found my internship at IHP during the summer of my third year within the scope of the university's contract program. Although I had not yet taken the RF integrated circuit design course, I was able to do my internship project in this field because I had mastered ADS and Cadence software, albeit in other contexts. In addition, the opportunity to produce our own Si-MOSFET chips in the Class-100 clean room at SUNUM was a privilege rarely offered to undergraduate students. This process allowed me to get to know semiconductor manufacturing technologies closely and gave me the opportunity to experience how microelectronic design meets manufacturing. All of these are just a few of the things that studying electronics at Sabancı University brought to me. As I said, the education at Sabancı not only provided me with theoretical background, but also gave me the opportunity to do real engineering projects during my undergraduate years.

What do you think of Sabancı University in terms of extracurricular activities, campus life, and opportunities offered to students?

Although classes, homework, and projects are intense at Sabancı, campus life actually provides an environment to provide balance. Since the campus is outside the city center, it is not possible to wander around the city whenever you want or try a new coffee shop every evening; however, you form much stronger friendships with the people you spend your whole day and night with. In this sense, the campus environment is quite comfortable and socially active. After a busy day, lying on the grass, walking by the lake, going to the gym or having a coffee with friends lightens the academic tempo a little. I think one of the biggest advantages here is the wide variety of club activities that appeal to different areas of interest on campus. You can develop yourself in many areas, from technical projects to different branches of art, from entrepreneurship to social responsibility projects. The fact that the faculty buildings and the library are open 24/7 and suitable for teamwork is also a big advantage in academic and social terms. In addition, the artistic and cultural events, theater plays, and concerts offered by the university add a different color to campus life. Of course, when all of these are just a few minutes away from each other, it becomes easier to balance social life with academic pace.

Are there any clubs or events that you participate in?

During my university life, in addition to my academic studies, taking part in different clubs and projects has been very developing for me both technically and socially. One of these was the electronics team captaincy I assumed in SURover, our university's planetary exploration vehicle team. Here, in addition to the coordination and project management of the electronics team, I worked on sensor systems, navigation control, microcontroller programming, power and battery management, communication protocols, and especially RF system design, which is also related to my area of expertise. We are currently developing our

next-generation vehicle. While increasing our technical competencies, we also aim to produce innovative solutions for planetary exploration systems. This process not only improved my technical skills, but also taught me to adapt within a team, work with people from different disciplines to turn an idea into reality, and think in a solution-oriented way in the face of challenges.

In addition, I have been an active member of the acting club for three years. I was also the vice president for a while, and during this period I managed the design and implementation processes of the one-year basic acting training program we provide to newcomers. I also performed as an actor in various plays, undertook the costume and set design in the background, and worked in the direction room as a light and sound designer. Theater is not just a hobby for me; it is also a place that teaches me to work with the uncertainty of human nature, contrary to the strict rules of technology and engineering. When I performed on stage, I realized that I actually got to know myself better as I entered the world of a completely different character. Working on dramaturgy, analyzing a text, and adapting it to the stage gave me the ability to shape and express my thoughts better. Taking part in light and sound design allowed me to see that the stage tells a story not only with dialogues but also with atmosphere.

Just as it gives me satisfaction to watch the circuits come together to form a system in the Rover team, witnessing a play being transferred from the rehearsal process to the stage in the theater gives me the same excitement. One feeds analytical thinking, the other emotional depth; both make me who I am.

What do you want to do after your education? What are your goals? How will Sabancı University contribute to your goals?

I have not made a definite decision about what I will do after my doctorate. I currently have two different paths ahead of me, and both excite me equally. My PhD process will provide me with the freedom to conduct research and contribute to my academic knowledge if I advance in academia. On the other hand, if I want to enter business life in this field, I will have the opportunity to enter the sector as a competent engineer with the knowledge I have gained in academia. Even when I decide to advance in business life, one of my feet must always remain in academia due to the nature of microelectronics, so I will not completely give up the freedom in academia. I believe that the approach I have gained at Sabancı will put me in a strong position on both sides, whether I advance in academia or business life. For now, I am continuing to explore both of these paths. The experiences I will gain throughout my doctorate will help me see in which way I can make the biggest impact and achieve self-actualization.

Sabancı University Civic Involvement Projects Has Become a Member of the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities

Sabancı University Civic Involvement Projects (CIP) has become a member of the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, which strengthens the social engagement of universities for a more just and sustainable world.

Talloires Network of Engaged Universities (TNEU) aims to strengthen the role of higher education institutions in serving society and fulfilling their social responsibilities, and encourages cooperation among member universities. This global network, which includes 445 universities from 92 countries, supports social responsibility in higher education and enables the exchange of good practices.

The announcement of Sabancı University Civic Involvement Projects (CIP) becoming a member of the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities was also included in the TNEU February newsletter.

About TNEU:

The Talloires Network is an international coalition that aims to strengthen the social responsibility and civic role of higher education institutions. It was founded in 2005 at a conference in Talloires, France. The secretariat of the network is located at Tufts University in the USA. Today, 443 universities from 91 countries are members of the network.

Some of the member universities are:

Harvard University (USA)
The University of Manchester (UK)
Tufts University (USA)
Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
Universidad Veracruzana (Mexico)
University of Cape Town (South Africa)
University of Edinburgh (Scotland)
University of Ghana (Ghana)
University of St Andrews (Scotland)
Western Sydney University (Australia)

Collaboration of Academy and Industry: Digital Manufacturing Ecosystem is Developing with DiMAP

The DiMAP - Direct Digital Manufacturing Platform Project, carried out within the Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center (SU-IMC) of Sabancı University, located in Teknopark Istanbul, has been launched. Within the scope of the project, which aims to define the future standards of digital manufacturing technologies, SMEs (small and medium enterprises) will be supported in increasing their high value-added product development capacities and opening up to the global market.

The DiMAP - Direct Digital Manufacturing Platform Project, funded under the Competitive Sectors Program of the Ministry of Industry and Technology with the financial cooperation of the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye, has been launched. The opening of the project, carried out within the Sabancı University Integrated Manufacturing Technologies Research and Application Center (SU-IMC), was held at Teknopark Istanbul Turgut Özal Event Center with the participation of the Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye, Mehmet Fatih Kacır. At the event, hosted by Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı and Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici, Ministry of Foreign Affairs EU Presidency Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation Director General Bülent Özcan, and SU-IMC CEO and DiMAP Director Devrim Özaydın also made statements about the project.

Minister of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye Mehmet Fatih Kacır made the following statements in his speech at the opening of the event: "Manufacturing power and technology development capability determine the direction and speed of countries' development journey. Investments in innovation and R&D studies constitute the key point of sustainable growth and international competitive power. Strengthening Türkiye's brand value in the aviation, automotive, and mobility sectors will be possible by increasing the competitive power of our SMEs in the supply chain of these sectors and by including new SMEs in the ecosystem. It is our priority that our SMEs in these two sectors, which are based on high technology, complete their digital transformation, adopt data-driven and smart manufacturing technologies, and acquire test and analysis infrastructures that will allow them to manufacture at international quality standards."

"It will be a base that will increase the digital competencies of SMEs"

Mehmet Fatih Kacır, who emphasized that the DİMAP Direct Digital Manufacturing Center will be a base that will increase the digital competencies of SMEs and sub-industry enterprises, said, "Within the scope of the European Union-supported competitive sectors program, we are launching a center that will introduce new manufacturing models to our SMEs in the civil aviation, automotive, and composite sectors. This center will provide our SMEs operating in the civil aviation, automotive, and composite sectors with the opportunity to develop their direct digital manufacturing capabilities and apply manufacturing technologies. It will provide our SMEs, which carry out mass manufacturing in areas requiring high precision, with a critical infrastructure where they can test their products in accordance with national and international quality standards and directly integrate into certification processes. I believe that our center will accelerate the transformation of Türkiye's R&D and entrepreneurship ecosystem and the industrial sector."

“DİMAP is highly valuable for SMEs to achieve an international structure”

Bülent Özcan, Director General of Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation of the Presidency for the European Union, spoke as follows: “We have used approximately 10 billion euros of European Union resources as grants in Türkiye between 2002 and 2020. In this context, we have provided financing for European Union projects in many different areas of Türkiye, from transportation to the environment, from climate change to regional development. Within this scope, competitiveness and competitive sectors were among the important issues. The DİMAP Project is very valuable for SMEs to achieve an international structure. In this respect, sustainability is one of the most fundamental goals. Sabancı University has almost doubled or tripled the funds it has received in the last 3 years compared to the previous 10 years. It has reached a total fund of 22 million euros. A long journey was experienced for this project to be realized and to reach this stage. First of all, we would like to thank our Minister of Industry and Technology and his team, who provided us with this vision, and I thank Sabancı University very much.”

“We attach great importance to public-industry-academia collaborations”

Sabancı University Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees Güler Sabancı began her speech by stating that Sabancı University attaches great importance to public-industry-academia collaborations, referred to as the triangle of success. Güler Sabancı, who emphasized that DİMAP is a great example of this success triangle, said, “Becoming a world university primarily requires taking part in the right projects with its structure, flexibility, innovation, and research-oriented identity. Sabancı University, as one of the leading research universities of our country and the world in the past 25 years, has been undertaking projects that emphasize its pioneering position with transformative effects on science and society. With DİMAP, it is aimed to put digital and additive manufacturing methods into practice, especially in SMEs. In this way, we aim to popularize data-driven smart manufacturing technologies. I would like to thank our Minister Mehmet Fatih Kacır from the Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye, who has been one of the biggest stakeholders in the project until today, Bülent Özcan, the General Manager of Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation of the Presidency of the European Union, especially our Vice President Mehmet Yıldız, our Professor Bahattin Koç, our SU-IMC CEO Devrim Özaydın, our project partners, and all the teams involved in the project.”

“We are determined to leave permanent works in the field of engineering”

Sabancı University President Yusuf Leblebici said in his speech, “At Sabancı University, we are determined to leave permanent works, especially in the fields of scientific research and engineering. In this context, the DİMAP platform that we are opening here today is a very important step. In the coming years, DİMAP will serve not only the research groups operating at the university, but also SMEs and Türkiye’s industrial manufacturing capacity. The platform is extremely important in terms of both scientific research and industrial management in the future. We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to all our friends who have contributed to this work so far.”

"Our laboratories and DİMAP Project infrastructure are open to all our institutions"

SU-IMC CEO and DiMAP Director Devrim Özaydın said that the main purpose of the DİMAP Project is to bring SMEs together with additive and digital manufacturing technologies, to bring them to the international competitive level and even to exceed this level. Özaydın continued as follows: “With this project, advanced additive manufacturing, material characterization, mechanical testing, and high-tech non-destructive testing infrastructure, especially Cold Spray, which is a new technology in the world, has been brought to our country. Sabancı University SU-IMC Manufacturing and Test Laboratories and DİMAP Project infrastructure located in the Composite Technologies Center of Excellence in Teknopark Istanbul are open to all our institutions. In our project, we will use this infrastructure in the most efficient way by working together with our entrepreneurs,

R&D centers, industrial organizations, and universities, especially our SMEs in the aviation, automotive, and composite sectors. We will support the digital transformation journey of our companies and increase their capacity to manufacture functional parts by utilizing advanced manufacturing techniques such as additive manufacturing. We will especially ensure that our SMEs can carry high value-added prototypes to the operational environment. We will continue to manufacture value-added outputs for our country. We would like to thank our Ministry of Industry and Technology of the Republic of Türkiye and our Minister of Industry and Technology Mr. Mehmet Fatih Kacır, the Presidency of the European Union Financial Cooperation and I would like to thank Project Implementation General Manager Bülent Özcan, our Vice President Mehmet Yıldız, our Professor Bahattin Koç, our partners, and all the teams who contribute to the project."

The Project aims to increase the manufacturing capacity of industrial companies

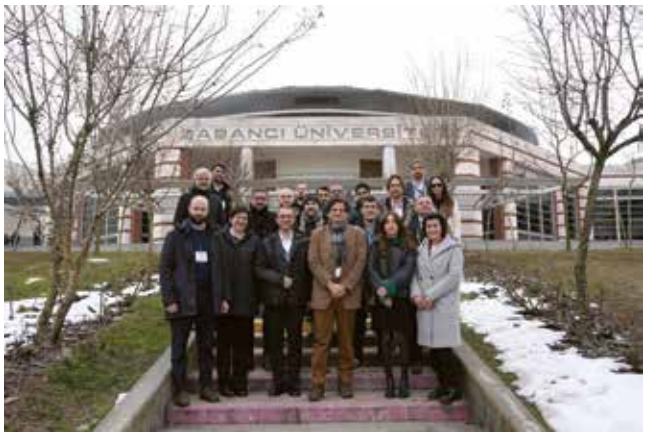
DiMAP, with a total budget of 9.8 million euros, aims to develop additive manufacturing processes supported by data-based smart manufacturing systems and integrate these processes with testing, characterization, and quality control elements. The platform aims to support the digital transformation journey of industrial companies, especially SMEs operating in the civil aviation, automotive, and composite sectors, to increase their capacity to manufacture functional parts by utilizing advanced manufacturing techniques such as additive manufacturing and to enable them to carry high value-added prototypes to the operational environment. In line with this goal, the project directly touches the regional industrial ecosystems in the leading cities of Türkiye in industrialization, Istanbul, Bursa, and Kocaeli. The project covers not only the technical infrastructure and product development processes, but also the support of the basic needs of companies such as certification, human resource development, and access to financing.

A strong partner network

The DiMAP Project, which aims to define the future standards of digital manufacturing technologies, is positioned as a holistic platform that increases the product development capabilities of companies, supports their access to the global market, and supports them in their transformation journeys, with the guidance of Sabancı University's research vision, SU-IMC's technical power, and partner network. The project is carried out with a strong partner network consisting of organizations such as Bursa Industrialists and Business People Association (BUSİAD), Kocaeli Chamber of Industry (KOSANO), Eastern Marmara Development Agency (MARKA), Istanbul Development Agency (İSTKA), SAHA Istanbul, and Teknopark Istanbul, within the scope of Sabancı University's efforts to strengthen university-industry collaboration. Partner organizations act as a bridge between SMEs in their regions and sectors and DiMAP.

Kick-Off Meeting of ARISE Project (EU Funded) was Held at Sabancı University

The ARISE project team convened at Sabancı University for its Kick-Off Consortium Meeting on 25-26 February 2025, bringing together 12 partners from 6 countries.



The meeting started with the opening talk of the Sabancı University President Prof. Yusuf Leblebici. Over two productive days, the work package leaders made presentations, the challenges were discussed and the upcoming activities for the months ahead were planned. The team also visited the Sabancı University Nanotechnology and Application Center (SUNUM).

Coordinated by Sabancı University, the ARISE project consortium includes ABEE (Belgium), BiTech (Belgium), European Thermodynamics Limited (United Kingdom), AVL Italia (Italy), CRF (Italy), VITO (Belgium), FICOSA (Spain), VIF (Austria), GEM (Italy), Iconiq Innovation (United Kingdom), and INTRACT (Türkiye) as beneficiaries.

The Sabancı University team consisting of Prof. Ali Koşar, Dr. Ali Sadaghiani, Dr. Omid Moradi, Eren Bektaş, Ilker Alagözoğlu, Cem Özbek and Dr. Tuğçe Akkaş had a great pleasure to organize the event and host the ARISE project team.

ARISE (Advanced BatteRy System and Integration for Generation-4 Solid State CElls) is a 42-month project funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Actions. It aims to develop an advanced, solid-state, fourth-generation (Gen-4) Li-ion battery system for electric vehicles, featuring high-performance capabilities and a cell-to-chassis concept with expandable modules.

mART Program Conducts Third Transformation Field Laboratory in Collaboration with Deloitte Norway and Norsk Hydro

Sabancı University Master in Action Research and Transformation (mART) Program successfully completed an intensive one-week study conducted in Norway with Deloitte and global energy giant Hydro.

The study, which was held in Oslo Vækerø between May 5 and 9, was shaped around two main topics: "Business and Data Ecosystem" and "New Leadership Approach in Production Systems". Hydro operates as one of the world's largest aluminum producers with more than 33 thousand employees in 140 production facilities and more than 40 countries. Acting with a vision of leadership in sustainability, innovation, and circular economy, Hydro creates value on a global scale in sectors such as energy, construction, automotive, and packaging.

mART program participants worked in collaboration with academics and Deloitte experts to develop creative and innovative solutions in order to enhance Hydro's global ecosystem strategy and leadership models in production facilities. Participants conducted workshops, interactive presentations, and in-depth interviews with Hydro executives. At the end of the program, the recommendations developed by mART participants were conveyed to Hydro executives.

Our Faculty Member Hüveyda Başağa's Project Receives TÜBİTAK-TEYDEB 1505 Support

The results of the TÜBİTAK-TEYDEB 1505 University-Industry Cooperation Support Program have been announced. The project of Sabancı University Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences Emeritus Faculty Member Hüveyda Başağa has been granted support under the program.

Our Emeritus Faculty Member Hüveyda Başağa's project entitled "Development of Antioxidant Effective Liquid Food Supplement Containing Microparticle Quercetin" aims to produce quercetin-iron (III) chloride complex microparticles that are based on natural products and offer a more stable profile in order to improve the properties that limit the bioavailability of quercetin and to create a commercial liquid food supplement product formulation containing these microparticles.

The goals of the project, which will be carried out together with Mefar İlaç, are to synthesize and characterize the quercetin-iron (III) complex, to demonstrate the antioxidant effects of this complex with in vitro studies and to demonstrate its non-toxicity with in vivo animal experiments. The project aims to provide added value to our country by turning it into a commercializable product with the R&D studies and technology transfer required for the development of a liquid food supplement with antioxidant activity.

Sabancı University's CIP Experience Shared at Tufts University

Zeynep Bahar, Director of Civic Involvement Projects at Sabancı University, participated as a speaker on April 24, 2025, in a civic engagement-themed event organized by the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University.

Speaking in the session titled "Civic Engagement in Action," Bahar introduced the Civic Involvement Projects (CIP) model—one of the most significant innovations Sabancı University has brought to higher education in Türkiye. This model has been implemented continuously since 1999. During the session, Bahar shared how the CIP model fosters active citizenship among students, integrates education with social responsibility, and enables students to make tangible contributions to society.

Sabancı University's approach to university social responsibility is holistic, centering not only on student engagement but also on institutional commitment. This comprehensive perspective positions the university as a model for other higher education institutions, contributing meaningfully to the creation of a more just, inclusive, and participatory society.

In addition, in 2025, Sabancı University's Civic Involvement Projects became a member of the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, led by Tufts University. Through this membership, Sabancı University aims to strengthen its collaborations with Tufts and other network members in the coming years.

Sabancı Üniversitesi

Sabancı University

Orta Mahalle, No:27

Tuzla-İstanbul

+90 216 483 90 00

www.sabanciuniv.edu

info@sabanciuniv.edu